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ANNUAL R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

(Eric C. Downer, M.A., D.P.H.)

including that of the

C H I E F S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

(G.H. Acton, M.S.I.A.)

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G 3 1 s t D E C E M B E R ,

1945.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Sedgley Road West,
Tipton.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year, 1945. In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health it is greatly abridged and is in reality an interim report.

I have to record the appointment of Dr. Mary Pilling as Assistant Medical Officer of Health in December, 1945. She also holds the position of Assistant School Medical Officer under the Staffordshire County Council. The re-appointment of an Assistant will have a very helpful affect on the work of the Department as it will give the Medical Officer of Health more time for his administrative and inspectorial duties than has obtained hitherto.

I wish to record with great pleasure the return of Mr. William Hemmings, Senior Clerk to the Department, after his long spell of service during which he was a prisoner of war first in Italian and then in German hands. He recommenced his duties on the 1st November and we most heartily welcome him back.

Up to the end of 1945, it had not been found possible to find a suitable additional Sanitary Inspector to replace Mr. Houghton. Being one Sanitary Inspector short has imposed a very heavy strain on the Chief Sanitary Inspector and on his remaining colleague and it is earnestly hoped that an additional Sanitary Inspector may be appointed soon.

I want to thank you Mr Mayor, the Chairmen and Members of the Public Health Committee, the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee and the Housing Committee, for your kindness and support during a most difficult year. I wish to assure you that you have received devoted and keen service from your Chief and additional Sanitary Inspectors, from your Nurses and from the clerical staff of the Department. I have received from your Chief Officers, from the Medical Practitioners of the town and from many members of the Public, most hearty and cordial co-operation for which I am most grateful.

It may be that some have imagined that with the cessation of hostilities, an easier time lay ahead of your Public Health Department and its staff. For necessary but lamentable reasons, our activities in certain respects, e.g. housing, have had to be curtailed. Six years of this has led to the accumulation of a vast amount of work and the next years will bring to us serious problems affecting the social and health planning of our Borough. I wish to assure you Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen, that the staff of your Public Health Department will attack these beneficent and constructive tasks with even more enthusiasm and keenness than they have tried to bring to bear on the wasteful and futile jobs of war.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

ERIC C. DOWNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A T I S T I C S .

Area (in acres)	2167
Population (Census 1931)	35814
Registrar General's Estimate of the population (Mid-year, 1945)	35950
No. of inhabited houses, December, 1945 (approx)	9256
Rateable value (31st March, 1945)	£148145
Sum represented by a penny rate	£566

The following figures are given by the Registrar General

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	374	348	722
Illegitimate	13	10	23

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	20.72
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STILLBIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total
	9	11	20

Still Birth Rate (per 1000 live and still births)	26.14
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DEATHS.

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths	199	195	394

Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	10.96
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<u>Maternal Deaths.</u>	2
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<u>Maternal Mortality Rate.</u>	2.68
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	M.	F.	Total
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (under one year)	19	24	43

<u>Infantile Mortality Rate.</u>	57.72
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DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	M.	F.	Total
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	1	3
Whooping Cough	-	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	18	13	31
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	4	6
Syphilitic Diseases	2	-	2
Influenza	2	-	2
Measles	2	-	2
Cancer of Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus (M)	3	-	3
Uterus (F)	-	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	9	4	13
Cancer of breast	-	5	5
Cancer of all other sites	14	14	28
Diabetes	1	2	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	20	24	44
Heart Disease	41	36	77
Other diseases of Circulatory System	4	2	6
Bronchitis	21	18	39
Pneumonia	9	11	20
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	1	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5	2	5
Other Digestive Diseases	2	4	6
Nephritis	4	9	13
Other Maternal Causes	-	1	1
Premature Birth	4	4	8
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury.			
Infantile Disease	4	6	10
Suicide	2	-	2
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
Other violent causes	9	4	13
All other causes	14	24	38
Totals -- all causes	199	195	394

The above Table of Deaths is given by the Registrar General.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of Notifiable Diseases. These differ to a small degree from the Registrar General's figures.

	Number of cases notified	Number of Deaths (Registrar General's figures)
Scarlet Fever	131	-
Diphtheria	54	2
Measles	481	2
Whooping Cough	61	1
Pneumonia	42	20
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	3
Erysipelas	9	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	-
Dysentery	4	-

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Dysentery
Under 1 year	1	1	36	10	3	1	1	1	1
1 to 2 years	6	-	59	8	6	-	-	-	-
2 to 3	11	3	69	7	4	-	-	1	1
3 to 4	14	2	72	11	3	-	-	-	-
4 to 5	7	2	64	10	1	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	74	31	172	14	5	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	11	9	7	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	3	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
20 to 35	4	3	2	-	5	-	1	-	1
35 to 45	1	-	1	-	4	-	2	-	-
45 to 65	-	2	-	-	5	-	4	-	2
over 65	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS											
Age Periods	New Cases					Deaths					
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
0 - 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	1	2	-	3	-	1	2	-	3	-
5 - 15 years	1	1	-	2	4	-	1	-	-	1	-
15 - 25 years	12	17	1	1	31	4	7	-	-	11	-
25 - 35 years	9	4	1	1	15	2	-	-	-	2	-
35 - 45	5	-	-	-	5	4	2	-	-	6	-
45 - 55	4	-	-	-	4	3	1	-	-	4	-
55 - 65	5	4	-	-	9	4	4	-	-	8	-
Over 65	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS.	37	28	4	4	73	18	16	2	-	36	-

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC.

The general health of the public throughout the year 1945 remained very good in spite of very severe weather and the continued state of war in the early part of the year. A tremendous psychological fillip was given to everybody by the termination of first the European war and then the Asiatic one but the latter came too late to allow the majority of people to relax from their labours and have a real holiday. We look forward to a definite improvement in health from next year onwards when holidays with pay become the order of the day.

When contrasted with 1944, one notes that there were less than half the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and a drop of 1/3rd in Diphtheria, a drop of 3/5ths in Whooping Cough and of 3/7ths in Pneumonia. Against that there was a smart epidemic of measles but the cases were mild and led to few complications. Again the resilience of the juvenile population must be attributed to the wise measures taken for the nourishment of school children and those under school age.

The adult population gave the impression of being tired and overstrained while still healthy. With freedom from the anxieties of war, freedom from the danger from the air, easier access to an increased variety of foodstuffs, assured employment and adequate holidays, this ought fairly soon to right itself.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors:-

to expectant mothers	First Visits	553
	Total Visits	695
to children under one year of age	First Visits	792
	Total Visits	1823
to children between the ages of one and five years	Total Visits	2140
Total visits paid by Health Visitors for the year		4658

Attendances at all Welfare Centres.

	<u>Central</u> <u>Clinic</u>	<u>Burnt</u> <u>Tree</u>	<u>Ocker</u> <u>Hill</u>	<u>Tipton</u> <u>Green</u>
No. of attendances by:-				
1. Children under one year	2616	1138	1295	2442
2. Children between one and five years	1090	405	807	800

The total number of children who first attended at the Centres during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were under one year of age was 457 representing 57.7% of the notified live births.

Defects found in children attending the Centres:-

Debility	4
Malnutrition	3
Improper feeding	13
Skin Diseases	12
Tonsils and Adenoids	1
Phimosis	4
Umbilical hernia	34
Crippling defects	1
Eye defects	4
Inguinal hernia	3
Rickets	1
Diarrhoea and Sickness	1
Mental defects	1
Miscellaneous	30

The number of children under five treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics was 232 of whom 198 were new cases and 34 were old cases. The total attendances numbered 498.

Children treated at the Ophthalmic Clinic.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Treatment Recommended</u>	<u>Total</u>
Squint	Spectacles prescribed	10
? Squint	Spectacles not prescribed	4
Conjunctivitis	Clinic treatment	8
Obstructed tear duct	Referred to Hospital	3
Other conditions	Treatment advised	1
Retests	Advised	3

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

The Dental Clinic for children under five and for nursing and expectant mothers was held fortnightly. The total attendances for under fives were 12.

The number of children on the Child Life Protection Register was nil and the number of persons receiving children for reward at the end of the year was nil.

The Ante-natal Clinic is held on Friday afternoons. 256 women attended for examination for the first time. The attendances totalled 292.

The following conditions were found necessitating treatment:-

Heart Disease	2
Toxaemia	6
Disproportion	6
Requiring:-	
Induction	11
Caesarian	2
X-Ray	2
Version	4
Dental Treatment	2

Dental treatment for ante-natal and post-natal mothers was as follows:-

No. of mothers seen by Dentist 22

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

No. of Midwives practising at the end of the year:-

Tipton Nursing Association	4
Private Midwives	3
Others	1

No. of cases attended during the year:-

	<u>As Midwives</u>	<u>As Maternity Nurses</u>
Tipton Nursing Association	245	15
Private Midwives	320	29
Others	6	-

Eight Midwives gave notification of intention to practice in this area during the year 1945, but one of those was a Midwife living in an adjacent area who took occasional cases in Tipton; of the remaining seven, four were Midwives employed by the Tipton Nursing Association under their agreement with the Council and three were private Midwives.

62 cases of difficult labour or abnormal pregnancy (resulting in 33 live and 2 still births) were removed to Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich under the Council's scheme and 5 delicate or premature babies were hospitalised there; 55 cases (resulting in 54 live and 1 still birth) where home conditions were insanitary or overcrowded, were confined at the Maternity Homes of the Staffordshire County Council under the Council's agreement with that Authority. Some 29 cases were confined in Private Nursing Homes or at the homes of relatives outside the Borough. The remainder, amounting to approximately 620 were confined at home and for these the domiciliary Midwives were sufficient.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The measures taken by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee in accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health were reported on in last year's Annual Report. The Committee has, since that time, purchased two special cots and a supply of baby clothes and hot water bottles with covers which can be rushed out in the Borough Ambulance at the request of any Doctor or Midwife desiring them. The Committee's policy for premature children remains hospitalisation in the Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, the children being conveyed there by the Hallam Hospital Ambulance which is adapted for the purpose.

The Committee concentrated on their measures for securing confinements in Hospital of all cases likely to prove difficult or abnormal deliveries and of all cases where the home is overcrowded or insanitary or where there is no proper provision for care of the mother and child.

The Committee are anxious as soon as they are able to establish their Home Help and Domestic Service for cases of confinement, but owing to the continued demands of local industry for female labour, it did not prove possible in 1945 to obtain suitable Home Helps. The matter will not be overlooked.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

During the year 23 illegitimate children were born in Tipton of which 14 presented no particular problem being reared in the house where the mother lived. Special care is however taken by the Health Visitors in these cases and particular effort is made to ensure that they become regular attendants at the Welfare Centres.

In accordance with the Council's agreement under Circular 2866 with the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare, 9 cases requiring especial investigation and social guidance were referred to them. Of these three are now living happily with their mothers, one with the grandparent and five have been adopted into suitable homes outside Tipton.

During the year one Tipton girl entered a Diocesan Home for a period.

On the whole the scheme of working in conjunction with a Diocesan Association is working well but one or two comments may be made. Firstly the Diocesan Association has an essentially religious basis and is in fact an organ of the Established Church and we have to face today the fact that some of these mothers are distrustful, if not hostile, to formal religion. Secondly, while the concern of the Council is primarily with the safety and the care of the child and the social rehabilitation of the mother, the Diocesan Association tends to emphasize the moral rehabilitation of the mother. These considerations have not however prevented zealous and good work from being accomplished and the scheme is worthy of further trial. But it must be emphasized that only by the Council's Officers working throughout in close contact with the Diocesan Association, can the best results can be obtained.

CONTROL OF SMALLPOX AND TYPHUS.

The return, in the latter half of the year, of prisoners of war and demobilised soldiers, many of them by air, from smallpox and typhus infected areas of Europe, Asia and Africa, has raised a new problem of control. A very fine system of notification from the port of entry to the area to which the soldier (or sailor) was going, has made it possible to keep and maintain a close supervision of all contacts without interfering with leave and with the speedy reunion of the returning man with his family.

All these contacts have been interveiwed and supervised until well past the last possible date for the outbreak of the disease and all have co-operated in the few measures necessary to safeguard the public.

Re-vaccination was offered, accepted and carried out in one or two cases and refused in one.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

My remarks in the Annual Report for 1944 in this case are still valid. I would express the personal opinion that the present type of poster displayed in connection with Venereal Disease is firstly ugly and secondly of no real educational value.

TUBERCULOSIS.

I regret to have again to report a rise in the notifications of Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis, 65 and 8 respectively, in addition to which 2 former cases of Pulmonary T.B. have been restored to the register. This is occurring at a time when the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis is having the utmost difficulty in providing sanatorium accommodation for suitable cases. This is chiefly due to the shortage of staff. Not only are the existing beds insufficient but a proportion of them are having to be kept empty. This sets up a vicious circle, it means that cases have to wait a long time before admission and that when admitted they take longer to treat and for that reason keep back the admission of other cases. There is grave danger (i) that some of these cases will, during the waiting period, advance beyond the stage where sanatorium treatment can help and may indeed become hopeless and (ii) during the waiting peiod there is a tendency for them to infect others and to promote disease in the town.

The solution to this lies along two lines:-

1. The provision of adequate sanatorium accommodation and staff which is not within the province of this Authority.
2. The provision of houses for those affected and the proper spacing of the occupants of these houses.

There is little use in informing these patients that they should have a separate bedroom. In about nine cases out of every ten, it just cannot be done. Only houses will sove the problem.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.			NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.	
YEAR	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1945	65	8	34	2
1944	55	4	29	5
1943	57	12	22	1
1942	59	7	30	3
1941	52	7	25	6
1940	33	4	33	3
1939	41	16	19	3
1938	46	5	29	6
1937	36	8	30	3
1936	35	7	21	1

Tuberculosis contd.

ADMISSIONS TO SANATORIA AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS DURING 1945.

<u>Prestwood</u>	<u>Groundslow</u>	<u>Edge View</u>	<u>Standon Hall.</u>	<u>Total</u>
14	4	8	3	29

HOUSING IN TIPTON IN 1945.

The Council and Housing.

At the beginning of the year in response to Government enquiry, the Council indicated its willingness to take 114 prefabricated bungalows and expressed a preference for the Tarran type. At the same time a Sub-Committee was appointed to deal with post-war housing schemes in the Borough.

In February the Council authorised the purchase of the Glebefield Estate of $15\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

It was decided subject to the approval of the Ministry to build the prefabricated bungalows as follows:- 70 on the Denbigh Estate, 20 on the Moors Mill Lane site, 6 on the Factory Road site, while the siting of the other 18 originally intended to be on Alexandra Road (which siting was not approved) was deferred.

In March an approach was made to the relevant Ministries to secure the de-requisitioning of the Denbigh and Lower Church Lane estates. The portion of the Denbigh held by the War Department was released late in May, that held by the Ministry of Works late in September, while the Lower Church Lane estate was relinquished by 1st November.

In May the decision was taken to reduce the number of prefabs to 96.

In May also the Ministry was informed that the Authority proposed as soon as possible to build 340 permanent houses, 160 on the Denbigh and 180 on the Lower Church Lane site.

In June, the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Housing Manager were instructed to prepare a list of 96 families suitable for the temporary bungalows.

In July, Mr. Jackson F.R.I.B.A. of Birmingham was entrusted with the task of submitting three designs for houses of 950 sq.ft. superficie and three for houses of 1000 sq.ft. superficie. He further undertook to submit layouts for the Denbigh and Upper Church Lane estates,

In November the contract for the first 22 houses on the Powis Avenue site was approved by the Ministry and sealed.

In December the Authority decided to cancel the 70 prefabs to be erected on the Denbigh estate and to utilise this estate fully for permanent houses. This reduced the number of prefabs for the Borough to 26.

In this month also tenders for a further 60 houses on the Denbigh estate were submitted for approval to the Ministry and schemes for 60 more on the Denbigh and 60 on the Lower Church Lane Estate were adopted by the Council.

This brief summary of the Council's decisions in the matter of housing scarcely reflects the amount of work and pre-vision that was put into the vital matter of housing during the year. The Council fully recognised that the need for adequate housing accommodation was urgent and was going to be their greatest problem as soon as hostilities ceased and the restrictions on building were lifted.

Housing contd.

During the war years the large number of older properties of the town have suffered further deterioration and have not been kept in repair. Their turn will come for scheduling, representation, demolition and replacement. Many families driven or drafted into Tipton during the war years will elect to stay. Hundreds of young married couples and others are living in lodgings and will be desirous of separate homes. Temporary overcrowding connived at in the national interest during the war years will have to be abated. Large numbers of workers daily entering Tipton to work from other areas will desire to be housed nearer to their work places i.e. in Tipton. Tuberculosis has increased and these and other unhealthy persons will require better spacing. Many people have grown old and feeble and require simpler accommodation such as bungalows. Houses have been blitzed and will need to be replaced. The Clearance Areas submitted for Ministerial approval before the war will, many of them, require to be re-scheduled and re-submitted and if approved, cleared. To all these facts the Council has throughout the year been very much alive.

Considerations in Housing Policy.

It is extremely difficult always to bear in mind that one cannot consider housing alone. It is not and can never be simply a matter of fitting so many families into so many houses. One has to consider amongst other things:-

1. The varying size of families.
2. That there are good and bad tenants.
3. The right of people to have as neighbours people whose presence is not a nuisance.
4. Convenience to peoples' work and transport. Convenience to schools.
5. Ill health, especially ill health of either the bread winner or the housewife.
6. Prevention of the spread of disease.
7. The special needs of special people.
8. Encouragement of home making and of the birth rate.
9. Old age.

Then you have such things as social and economic planning i.e. whether you will segregate into different portions of the housing estates people of different economic resources and social traditions and possibly of different tastes, or whether one should by deliberately mixing them in the estates, hope that by their re-action upon each other they will tend to level up and not to level down.

All this forms an interesting sociological study and it is essentially a human problem better solved by sympathetic and understanding human beings possessed of keen powers of observation and scientific knowledge rather than by the application of any mathematical formulae or inelastic principles.

Priority in Letting.

It must be obvious that for the first year or so only a fraction of the houses required can be completed and that there will be consequently very great and widespread disappointment because "many will be called but few chosen". It is of paramount importance that the few chosen should be those who stand in the greatest need on account of ill health, insanitary conditions, overcrowding etc. It is believed by some that this selection can most fairly be accomplished by the adoption of a "points system". I do not hold that view, and regard the science of mathematics as too inelastic to solve this human and social problem. I believe that in a small town like this, the pooled knowledge of Local Councillors, Health Department and Housing Department can best co-operate to ensure that houses are allocated in order of real need and according to a definite social policy.

Types of Houses.

There is considerable danger that Housing Authorities may be presented with an invidious choice. For some time restrictions on cost, materials and on area will be operative. In order to build houses immediately one may therefore have to build houses of what one might call a "utility" type, the alternative being to defer one's housing programme in the hopes of building houses

Housing contd.

really up to date and labour saving and with all those conveniences which we associate with an optimum standard of amenity.

For instance to deal with immediate need, the Council has with some reluctance agreed to the building of a number of prefabricated houses and is endeavouring to place them on sites where they will not interfere with the building of permanent houses on a large scale later on. There is a certain tendency to look down on the prefabricated house. Some of them are certainly not pretty and one's experience of such things as steel houses after the last war is not comforting. But actually there has been an immense advance made since then and several types of the present day prefabricated house will make exceedingly comfortable and labour saving homes for small families. I feel therefore that the policy of erecting prefabricated houses is right. Very great care needs to be taken however if they are not placed so close together as to prevent reasonable privacy and that the estates composed of them shall be tastefully and pleasantly laid out so that even if the individual houses from the outside lack attraction, the estate is on the whole made to be a pleasant one to live in.

Some Amenities.

A house should not merely provide shelter for a family but it should be the centre of happy home life. Some consideration therefore should be shown in its planning for the needs of every member of the family. Moreover a house should be so designed as to educate and direct the inclinations of those living in it to hygienic and decent living. For instance, a bath is provided in the hopes that all in the house will use it, a garden in the hope that all will recreate themselves in it, use it for the production of vegetables and flowers or at least keep it nice. We ought also to provide in every house a downstairs lavatory fitted with a handbasin if possible adjacent to the back door. This would be in effect a cloakroom in which working members of the family can use on their return from work and which would be handy for the housewife in her kitchen. The outside lavatory, unnecessarily cold, damp and disagreeable, should be regarded as a thing of the past. A properly equipped downstairs lavatory-cloakroom can put an end to the thoroughly undesirable habit of members of the family performing their ablutions in the kitchen sink.

Similarly where possible a sliding serving hatch should communicate between the kitchen and the living room in the hope of encouraging the partaking of meals and the general family life to take place in the spacious living room rather than the small kitchen, and also to save labour.

I see no objection to the upstairs lavatory being a combined bathroom and W.C. There is one real advantage and that is that the use of hot water in this apartment for washing imparts heat. It is desirable that the upstairs lavatory should not be absolutely cold in the winter as amongst other things one cannot exclude the possibility of it being used by sick persons going from warm beds with resultant rapid fall in temperature. If the upstairs lavatory is a separate apartment, it might be possible to lead the hot water pipes through it thereby providing some heat.

Another unfortunate result of too close a restriction on permitted area is the continued existence of the small bedroom, usually known in these parts as the boxroom. If it were a boxroom it would not matter so much, and as a bedroom it may only be intended for one child. But it tends to get inhabited by adults for which it is ~~inadequate~~. It is further an extremely difficult apartment to furnish as it usually contains a projection due to providing the necessary spacing over the staircase. It is profoundly to be hoped that very soon this type of bedroom will be regarded as obsolete.

In these days it is not only necessary to provide accommodation in a shed or otherwise for coal, but also a place for perambulators and bicycles which will otherwise be kept in the hall. We are alleged to be encouraging the rearing of families and increase in the birth-rate. That means perambulators. We should also surely encourage, for health reasons, our younger workers to go to and from work through the open air on bicycles rather than in ill-ventilated and infection-laden conveyances. It would be hard to estimate how many complaints have been caught either by standing in exposed places waiting for a vehicle or from inhaling infection in a vehicle.

Housing contd.

We can look forward to the day when every family will own a motor car. It can hardly be said to be the duty of the Housing Authority to provide a garage, but no house today should be built without the provision of sufficient space for the tenant, if he so desires, to erect a garage and only garages of a design harmonious with the house and with the character of the estate should be permitted. It should never be forgotten that the beauty and amenity of an estate have a bearing on both the happiness and the health of those living in it.

SCABIES.

The attendances at the Scabies Treatment Clinic were as follows:-

School children	353
Workers	90
Children under five years	106
Mothers of young children	73
H.M.Forces	3

In addition to that the heads of 223 children and 2 adults were cleansed owing to the presence of vermin or nits.

AMBULANCE.

During the course of 1945 an arrangement whereby the Borough Ambulances were driven, maintained and serviced by members of the Civil Defence staff, came to an end. The Council then resolved to make the Borough Ambulance the direct responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health. Drivers and Ambulance Attendants were engaged and garaging accommodation was provided at the rear of the Municipal Buildings. Doctors and others were notified and up to the end of the year a 24 hour service was satisfactorily maintained.

WATER SUPPLY.

A detailed survey on this was included in the Annual Report for 1944 and the facts stated in it are unaltered. I also append a report kindly furnished by the Engineer-in-Chief of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company on the water supplied by that Public Utility.

The water supplied to the Borough of Tipton has been satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

The Tipton district is supplied with water from stations outside the Council's boundaries. The waters from all the Company's pumping stations are examined regularly, both bacteriologically and chemically. Where treatment is installed, both raw waters and treated waters are examined bacteriologically.

The water supply within the Tipton Council's boundary is sampled at monthly intervals at four points:-

- (a) Central Clinic.
- (b) Company's Depot.
- (c) Municipal Buildings.
- (d) Ocker Hill School.

During 1945 twelve samples were examined from each of the above four sampling points and all 48 samples were found to be free from faecal bact. coli., and one only contained coliform bacteria of the intermediate type.

Water Supply cont.

The average chemical results for 1945 for the four sampling points were as follows:-

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
pH	7.4	6.9	6.8	7.5

Chemical results expressed in parts per 1000,000

Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	11.9	8.5	7.6	12.3
Chloride (Cl)	4.32	2.78	2.98	5.7
Ammonical Nitrogen	Trace	Trace	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid "	.0012	.0010	Trace	Trace
Oxidised "	.30	.29	.25	.26
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr)	.018	.018	.012	.012
Temporary hardness	11.4	7.2	7.1	11.9
Permanent hardness	5.1	5.6	5.4	4.0
Total "	16.5	12.8	12.5	15.9
Iron (Fe)	.004	.003	.006	.004
Manganese (Mn)	Trace	.002	Trace	Trace
Free Cl	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, but are examined at intervals for lead.

Sterilisation of the waters is carried out, when possible, at the pumping stations. This is largely precautionary. Contamination of mains following bursts or laying of new mains, and of service reservoirs following emptying, is safeguarded by chlorination on site. Special apparatus and staff are available for this purpose. These mains, reservoirs etc., are not brought back into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

The total number of houses supplied by the Company within the Borough of Tipton at 31st December last, was 9492. Of this number, approx. 1334 obtain their supply either from taps in yards or taps in outhouses.

A recent survey conducted by the Public Health Department revealed the following particulars:-

Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public water mains (a) direct to houses and (b) by means of stand pipes:-

	<u>Proportion of</u> <u>houses</u>	<u>Proportion of</u> <u>Population</u>
(a) Separate and direct to houses	84.2%	82%
(b) Joint to houses by means of stand pipes	3.4%)	15.8%)
Laid on to outside washhouses	12.4%)	18%)

CONCLUSION.

In accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health and the necessity for saving paper, this report has been kept down to a minimum. Details of other work have been carefully preserved in order that a comprehensive report may be furnished at the end of the war, if so desired.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary administration of the Borough for the year 1945, and for the necessity of saving paper this report has been kept down to a minimum.

The housing situation in the Borough was again one of the Department's main problems and a further 55 new cases of overcrowding were reported or discovered making the total far in excess of the figure which was established after the survey under the Housing Act 1935. The predominant feature of this overcrowding is unfortunately the intermingling of sexes. However, the family unit per house at the present time is very little in excess of the family unit in 1939 proving as the Department is well aware, of the number of 2 and 3 bedroom type houses occupied by one or two persons. The provision of bungalows for aged people would in this respect relieve a fair number of houses which could be let to families consisting of 4, 5 or 6 persons. Another disquieting feature is the condition of the old worn out houses included in the slum clearance programme and the continued occupation of the condemned houses which have been licenced or requisitioned during the war for temporary occupation by bombed out families etc; in the latter instance it is hoped that the families will have priority in which ever scheme is devised for rehousing into new Council houses. Deterioration of these old houses has been most noticable during these last few years and it is only possible to carry out most urgent defects.

During the year a large amount of time has again been devoted to meat inspection at the Government Centralised Slaughterhouse. This Slaughterhouse has been brought up to a high standard and it is evident that after several years of experience of centralised slaughtering one cannot foresee the opening up of numerous and in many instances unsuitable small private slaughter houses being allowed in the future

The number of calls to Shops, Canteens etc and the amount of unsound food condemned thereon has been greatly in excess of previous years and in some instances the method of storage and distribution leaves much to be desired.

The results of milk taken for analysis, although showing a big improvement on previous years are not up to the standard required, but improvements are being carried out to plant and dairy premises and the dairymen are co-operating with the Department in order to ensure a clean and safe milk supply. The labour problem at dairies is still very difficult, and the dairymen generally are badly handicapped in this respect.

Comments on other branches of work carried out are given in later pages.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their confidence; the Medical Officer for his encouragement and support and the whole of the staff for their splendid services.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G.H. ACTON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

The total number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors totalled 3227.

In addition 348 preliminary notices and 24 statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act.

The number of complaints registered during the year was 457 as against 552 in 1944.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	282
Re-inspections	860
Centralised Government Slaughterhouse and private slaughter	595
Visits under the Factory Act	87
Visits re Overcrowding, Rehousing etc	95
Tents, Vans, Sheds	8
Markets	39
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	29
Petroleum Regulations	92
Visits re defective and obstructed drains	189
Vermin-infested houses	60
Infectious and Contagious Diseases	358
Visits under the Shops Act	10
Visits under the Rat and Mice Destruction Act	58
Visits to Food Premises under the Food and Drugs Act, etc.	172
Cinemas and Schools	15
Miscellaneous Visits	278
Total	3227

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No. of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors	261
No. of disinfections carried out	258

DISINFESTATION.

It has not been found possible to utilise H.C.N. in the work of disinfestation, but 97 Council Houses and 43 privately owned dwelling houses infested with vermin were fumigated (Thermatox fumigators) and treated with liquid insecticides having a D.D.T. base, and in certain cases D.D.T. powder and Gammexane were used.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION

OF FOOD.

During the year 559 visits were paid to the Centralised Slaughterhouse and 36 visits were made re private slaughter of pigs by the Sanitary Inspectors. The number of animals inspected was 52185 made up as follows:-

Beasts...	...	...	...	8440
Calves...	...	...	...	3829
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	30040
Pigs	...	...	...	9876

In addition 148 visits were paid to Food Shops, Canteens, and other premises for the inspection of unsound food.

The total amount of meat and other foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption was as follows:-

Description of Food	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Lbs
Butchers Meat from Centralised Slaughterhouse	83	5	0	23
Bacon etc.	-	1	2	5
Cheese, Butter & Margarine	-	4	2	25
Fish, Poultry and Rabbits	-	-	2	14
Sausage	-	-	-	27
Eggs	-	-	-	23
Sugar	-	1	2	16
Vegetables	-	7	0	16
Fruit	-	-	-	27
Tea	-	1	0	0
<u>CANNED GOODS.</u>				
Canned Meat	1	14	0	3
Canned Fruit	-	-	-	19
Canned Vegetables	-	2	1	20
Canned Milk	-	5	2	20
Canned Fish	-	1	1	13
Canned Jams	-	-	1	16
Miscellaneous canned goods	-	-	3	6
T O T A L	86	7	1	21

The undermentioned table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned at the Government Centralised Slaughterhouse. The number of cattle affected with Parasitic diseases again shows a marked **increase**, but the number of cattle affected with Tuberculosis shows a decline from previous years. A very gratifying feature is the decline in pigs affected with disease including Tuberculosis. This decline has been constant over the last few years.

<u>CARCASE INSPECTED & CONDEMNED</u>					
(Return as required by the Ministry of Health)					
	Cattle (exclud -ing Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	6503 (4571)	1937 (2405)	3829 (3014)	30040 (40844)	9796 (3821)
Number inspected	6503 (4571)	1937 (2405)	3829 (3014)	30040 (40844)	9796 (3821)
<u>ALL DISEASES except TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil (6)	20 (119)	17 (20)	38 (80)	8 (14)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	830 (534)	465 (783)	17 (30)	1838 (3197)	184 (237)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	12.76 (11.68)	25.03 (32.56)	0.89 (0.99)	6.2 (7.8)	1.9 (6.2)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	8 (9)	92 (104)	4 (1)	- -	8 (7)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	446 (374)	722 (1042)	9 (11)	- -	665 (268)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.98 (8.18)	42.02 (43.33)	0.34 (0.36)	- -	6.8 (7.0)

(Government Centralised Slaughterhouse catering for the Boroughs of Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and West Bromwich.)

Figures in brackets are for the year 1944.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

42 applications for the renewal of the existing licences to slaughter or stun animals under the above Act were granted. No new licences were granted.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER.

5 cows were sent into the Centralised Slaughterhouse for slaughter by Veterinary Officers under the above Order and in two instances the animals were found to be affected with Generalised Tuberculosis and in the remaining three with Localised Tuberculosis.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

(a) FISH FRIERS.

40 Fish Friers are registered under Section 14 of the above Act. During the year under review improvements to 9 shops were carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the above Act, and in 10 instances the interior of the premises were cleansed and renovated after Informal Notices from this Department.

(b) PREMISES USED FOR THE SALE, STORAGE or MANUFACTURE OF ICE CREAM.

There are 45 premises registered under the Act. In two instances of premises used for the manufacture of this commodity it was found necessary to draw the attention of the Occupiers to the unsatisfactory conditions existing generally and steps are being taken to improve the buildings and plant to bring them up to a higher standard.

(c) PREMISES USED FOR THE SALE, STORAGE or MANUFACTURE OF PRESERVED FOODS.

8 premises are registered and are mainly used for the manufacture of sausages. It was only necessary in one instance to draw attention to the unsatisfactory condition of a food preparation room, which since has been remedied.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919, AND THE INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

58 visits were paid to premises and land in response to complaints of rat infestation and 44 infestations were successfully dealt with which resulted in 63 dead bodies being found and an estimated number of 526 rats destroyed making a total of 589.

The Local Authority provides the disinfection service. The baiting material used is Bread Iash and Sausage Rusk and the poisons used are Red Squill, Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic.

FARMS AND DAIRIES.

During the year periodical visits were paid to the farms and dairies. In respect of the two dairies carrying out a large wholesale trade, alterations and extensions to premises are being carried out and new equipment installed in lieu of some of the old and worn out equipment, which will ultimately ensure a more cleaner and safer milk supply. It is interesting to note that 95 per cent of the milk supply in the Borough is now heat treated.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

20 samples of milk were obtained by this Authority during the year for bacteriological examination and the results of same are shown in the following table.

The samples of raw milk were taken in the course of delivery from farms situated outside the Borough to dairies inside the Borough and these on the whole were unsatisfactory. In each case the Local Authority in which the farm was situated was informed with a view to necessary action being taken to ensure a cleaner and better supply.

The samples of designated milk show an improvement on previous years.

Type of Milk	No. of samples	Tests Applied	Result.	
			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	6	Methylene Blue	5	1
		Phosphatase Test	5	1
		Plate Count	5	1
Accredited	3	Methylene Blue	3	-
		Bacillus Coli	2	1
		Plate Count	2	1
Tuberculin Tested	3	Methylene Blue	3	-
		Bacillus Coli	3	-
		Plate Count	3	-
Heat Treated	3	Methylene Blue	3	-
		Phosphatase Test	3	-
		Plate Count	2	1
Sterilised	2	Plate Count	2	-
Raw X	3	Methylene Blue	-	3
		Bacillus Coli	-	3
		Plate Count	1	2

X Taken in course of delivery from farms to dairies.

Two samples of raw milk were also obtained for bacteriological examination for the presence of Tubercle bacillus with a negative result in each case.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1936 & 1938.

The following licences under the above Order were in force:- . . .

One	Dealers Bottling Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk
One	" " " " Accredited Milk
One	" " " " Pasteurised Milk
Seven	Dealers Licences to sell Accredited Milk
Five	" " " " Pasteurised Milk
Four	" " " " Tuberculin Tested Milk.

NATURE OF WORK DONE.

HOUSES.

Roofs repaired	135
Eavesguttering and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	53
Chimney stacks repaired	4
External walls repaired, rebuilt etc.	15
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	52
Bedrooms and living rooms renovated	11
Dirty houses cleansed	5
Floors repaired	14
Fixed windows made to open	2
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	34
Windows provided with new sash cords	20
Doors repaired or renewed	8
General house fittings repaired or renewed (boilers fire-ranges etc)	13
Staircases repaired or renewed	4
Separate water supply provided	9
Washing facilities provided	5
Wash-houses repaired or rebuilt	16
Wash-house coppers and firegrates repaired or renewed	19
Glazed sinks provided in lieu of brick and quarry sills	4
Water supply laid on to wash-house	2
Water supply pipes repaired	10
Sink waste pipes renewed	7
Chimney flues repaired	6
Covers to cellar areas renewed	2

DRAINAGE.

Drains opened and cleansed	190
Main drains repaired or reconstructed	2
W.C. branch drains repaired or reconstructed	7
Waste and surface water drains reconstructed	2
Addition inspection chambers installed	3
New covers to inspection chambers provided	8
Ventilation pipes to drains renewed or repaired	3
New intercepting and gully traps fitted	7

YARDS.

Yard surfaces paved or repaired	3
Yard walls repaired	4

CLOSETS.

Additional water closets provided	6
W.C. buildings repaired	22
New W.C. pedestal pans fitted	21
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	16
Flush water supply pipes etc. repaired or renewed	51
Seats to W.C. pans renewed	22
Midden privies abolished	2
W.C. provided with intervening ventilated space	2

GENERAL.

Insanitary stables discontinued	1
Stables limewashed and cleansed	3
Stables provided with middenstead	1
Keeping of animals so as to be a nuisance, discontinued	9
Housing of Caravans so as to be a nuisance, discontinued	2
Proper receptacles for trade refuse provided	3
Offensive accumulations removed	4

NOTE.— X See also under Factory Act.

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

87 visits were paid to premises under the above Act and the following work carried out:-

Existing sanitary conveniences for males and females abolished and new water closets installed	18
Additional water closets provided	6
Sanitary conveniences repaired and provided with proper doors and fasteners	10
Sanitary conveniences provided with proper intervening ventilated space	8
Flushing arrangements provided to men's urinals	4
Sanitary conveniences cleansed	9
Additional lighting and screening provided	6
Washing facilities provided	2
Drainage reconstructed	4
Bakehouses limewashed and cleansed	5

OUTWORKERS.

The premises of outworkers were inspected during the year and were found in a satisfactory condition.

CANAL BOATS, SHOPS, OFFENSIVE TRADES ETC.

No outstanding irregularities were discovered in course of routine inspections.

